

FROM A PROGRESSIVE, CONTENTED FARMER.

**He Writes of Potato Growing, Corn Growing, Etc.
—A Man with a Commendable Pride in His Work.**

Editors Progressive Farmer:

I have been so busy of late that I could not find time to write except to mother. Her weekly letter must not fail. Now I am laid up with an intensely painful carbuncle on my shoulder that makes it very inconvenient to wear conventional clothing and as it is not yet fashionable to go without them, I am staying close.

The prominence you have given my last letter and the kind comments upon it are very gratifying and I sincerely hope I may be able to help and bless my fellow farmers in this way.

IRISH POTATO GROWING.

We have our potatoes planted now and most of the ground is ready for corn. It continues so cool that I am in no great rush to plant the latter. All the land that was possible for such tools, we turned from five to nine inches deep according to its nature. Then we used the disc harrow, lapping it halfway, re-turning the land twice. Our harrow has ten twenty-inch discs. Set with a slight angle, it effectually shuffles our loose land three to four inches deep and, with the driver walking, makes reasonable draft for two horses. We followed this with a sixty-tooth steel lever harrow, covering ten feet, with the teeth set at an angle of about forty-five degrees. This tool left the surface in fine condition.

A visiting friend, who is a very successful potato grower in New York, insists that the crop should be planted in hills three feet apart each way. I prefer the old-fashioned way in drills. I laid off the patch as near three feet as possible, crossed half of it and planted his way, putting the other half in drills. We will see which is best. Have almost four acres in all. Part of our seed came from the mountains nearby and part from Michigan.

HOME MIXED FERTILIZERS.

For fertilizer, we bought one ton of acid phosphate, one ton of tankage and five hundred pounds muriate of potash. From these we mixed one ton for potatoes containing 4 per cent nitrogen, 8 per cent phosphoric acid, and 8 per cent potash.

This ton cost us less than \$27, while the best offer we had for similar analysis was \$35. My friend says this formula has given him best results in years of use.

From the remainder of the goods we produced a corn mixture that was not exactly what we want, but I think will give good results. In buying these materials we purchased part in one place nearly one hundred miles distant. It came through for twelve cents per hundred. The other we got at a town on same road in same direction only twenty-seven miles away, and had to pay eighteen cents per hundred freight.

If we had good roads, we could have drawn the latter by wagon for less money. But that IF!

SPRAYING FRUIT TREES.

Apples are in full bloom now. We got an Eclipse Spraying Outfit (advertised in your columns) last year and found it all right. Did not order our material in time for the first spraying, so will have to wait until the bloom falls. What we did last year paid in quantity and quality of fruit. Want to go over the entire orchard thoroughly this year, and in future hope to get over before the buds open.

To any one buying spraying apparatus, I would say, get plenty of hose and a long spray rod so you can get all about a tree and all over it without moving your pump constantly or stretching your arms out of place.

HOW IMPROVED FARMING IMPLEMENTS PAY.

I have a two-horse corn cultivator, just received, ready to care for my corn and potatoes. One of the tongueless, six-shovel variety. One of the

school boys was looking at it recently and informed me that I would not do any good with that. "There's too much of it." He is a nice bright fellow from South Carolina, but they had better wake up down there if they still cultivate with the bull tongue, paying a man to follow one mule, going four to six times in a row, when with two mules and a proper tool, he can do better work going once. Some object that "you can't plow big corn with it." I have used them and seen them used since my boyhood, every farm in the great corn belt having one or more of them, and I find that if corn is kept perfectly clean as long as it will go under the arch, you can afford to lay it by and begin building your crib.

Cultivate your corn every week if possible. No matter how dry and clean it may be, stir the soil. Do your deep plowing before the planter; shallow afterward.

LOVE YOUR FARM.

I am heartily sorry for any man who is farming for money merely. I would as soon marry money. Either condition, it seems to me, would approach very near the height and depth of human misery. Next to my sweetheart wife, I love my farming, and my pride and joy in its products is next to that I take in our happy, healthy children. I study its care and management, its interest and well being, present and future, almost as I study theirs.

I am indeed truly sorry for the man who farms as they used to say in Illinois—"to raise more corn to feed more hogs, to make more money to buy more land, to raise more corn to feed more hogs," and so on to the grave.

Brother farmers, let us look up. We stand next to God as the ministers of His material benefits to the needs of mankind. Let us love our business and our homes, honor them and make them lovely.

Yours sincerely,

HENRY M. DANIEL.

Madison Co., N. C.

Peas and Late Irish Potatoes.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

I am thinking of planting a crop of late Irish potatoes. Will you please give me some advice through your paper? I have a comparatively fresh piece of ground. How will it do to sow in peas the middle of April? And how much acid should be used under the peas? Also what grade of fertilizer is best for late Irish potatoes?

R. S.

Rowan Co., N. C.

(Answered by Prof. W. F. Massey, Horticulturist North Carolina Experiment Station.)

The best way to grow a crop of late potatoes in your section will be to get seed potatoes that have been kept in cold storage and that are ready to plant in late June. You can get these from T. W. Wood & Sons, Richmond, Va. The Burbank is a favorite sort for planting, but the Southern second crop seed of the early varieties will do very well. The land should be very thoroughly and deeply prepared and the seed should be planted in deep furrows, using a good high-grade fertilizer in the furrow. Stir this into the soil with a shovel plow, plant and cover only even with the surface, and then work the ground at first with the slant tooth harrow till the potatoes show along the rows. Then cultivate with a small tooth cultivator, keeping the land as level as possible and never hilling the potatoes at all. Early potatoes are better hilled up in laying by, but late potatoes grow in hot and dry weather and we should do everything we can to retain moisture in the ground. Hence they should be cultivated very shallow and flat and very frequently stirred, especially if the weather is dry.

Peas can be sown the middle of April, but there is no advantage in doing it. A month later is far

better. I would apply three hundred pounds of acid phosphate on the land before sowing peas, and harrow it in well. To make a fertilizer for late potatoes, I would use a mixture of one thousand pounds of acid phosphate, six hundred pounds of cottonseed meal and four hundred pounds of muriate of potash to make a ton, and would apply not less than five hundred pounds per acre.

A Remedy for the Potato Beetle.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

I wish to say that I fully endorse every statement made by Mr. Franklin Sherman on the potato beetle, and I wish to add my experience to what he has said, also giving a never-failing remedy for the pest. Until about ten years ago I never saw the potato beetle that Mr. Sherman so minutely describes in *The Progressive Farmer* of April 12th, except on "nettle briars." I fully believe this modern potato beetle to be the old "nettle briar beetle" as it was known in this section of the State, so common upon the nettle briar plant. When it first attacked our potato crop we thought we would experiment a little. So a friend of mind concluded that he would destroy the pest by first shaking them off and then covering with a turning plow so deep that they never would appear above ground again. So the work was accomplished in good earnest, and as a result, in about a week or ten days, the whole field was just covered with the pest.

Now we have found, that after making many experiments to no avail, in the absence of the very efficient remedies given by Mr. Sherman, that there is one that never fails and that is handy to many farmers in North Carolina. It is what we call "old field pine brush." After the potatoes have come up, we go to the pine woods and get loads (or as many as is necessary to a given space), laying them between the potato rows just so the brush do not touch each other, and I assure you that the pest will not trouble you, and if they have made their appearance in a very days after the brush has been applied, they will disappear in some unknown way. This remedy has been thoroughly tested without fail.

Success to *The Progressive Farmer*.

T. H. STIMPSON.

Forsyth Co., N. C.

Dust Boards.

A dust board is simply a piece of board set behind the plow to scrape the surface and leave it loose. Any kind of board and any convenient size may be used. A piece of inch plank six inches wide and about thirty inches long is about right. Fasten this by two steel strips to the plow stock, so the board will run behind the plow and just scrape the surface. It should be set to decline backward, so that it will drag over the bed rather than forward, so that it would carry trash with it. The dust board crushes the clods behind the plow and leaves a dust blanket on the surface which keeps the moisture from evaporating. If you buy the bolts and strips they will cost about ten cents, and the dust board is worth \$10 in a dry season.—Southern Farmer.

The best time to begin to improve methods of cultivation is before the seed go into the soil. In order to nourish the plant in the best possible manner, the soil must be thoroughly pulverized. A clod does not give up food to a plant. The greater the number and the larger the clods the greater the amount of locked up or unavailable plant food in any given soil. Complete pulverization of the soil is essential to the best crop yield. It is much easier and cheaper to prepare the soil well when the two or three mule plows and harrows can be used than when only the one mule plow and cultivator may be employed. The single plow and cultivation are all right after the crop is up, but as implements with which to prepare the soil they are not to be commended.—Prof. J. M. Johnson.